Glenda Wiles

From: Karen Mahar

Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 9:08 AM

To: Greg Chilcott; Alan Thompson; Howard Lyons

Cc: George Corn; Chris Hoffman; Commissioners Department

Subject: chemical dependency treatment in detention

Dear Commissioners:

Back in April there were emails circulated about scheduling a meeting to renew the contract for chemical dependency services in the jail. For whatever reason, the scheduled meeting was cancelled and I have been told that it will not be rescheduled until after budgeting.

I am concerned that this matter is too urgent to neglect until the budget is finally decided next fall. As you know, provision of these services is one of the County's greatest protections from liability should we have another jail suicide. I spoke with Jim Mason and he informed me that Western Montana Addiction Services is currently continuing their detention services without compensation, as they do not want to leave the inmates without services. However, I don't believe their budgeting entities will allow this to continue.

The contract with WMAS expired March 31, 2007. I urge you to address extension of this contract, if not for a year at least for a sufficient period of time to address it again with budgeting this fall. I know funding is the issue, but for less than \$1,000 per month these services are essential liability protection for the County.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help. Karen

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Ravalli County Commissioners